

# RESIDENT COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

SOUTH AFRICA



December 2022



## IN THIS ISSUE

- KwaZulu-Natal Floods
- Meet United Nations Volunteers in KZN
- South Africa gets new Resident Coordinator
- Partnerships for Development set up
- UN and the Government sign new Development Cooperation Framework



*Dear Colleagues, Partners and Friends of the UN family in South Africa,*

The year 2022 brought with it an ebb and flow of successes and challenges for the government and people of South Africa as well as the UN family in the country. Globally, we found ourselves in continued recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic; readjusting and addressing the challenges and shifting dynamics as a result of conflict; and adapting and attempting to mitigate the growing crises brought forth by climate change. These developments have had large-scale impact on citizens around the world. They also emphasize the urgency to find mutually beneficial and sustainable solutions.

South Africa's developmental landscape has not been spared. As the UN family navigated our way through 2022, we used our comparative advantage to convene stakeholders to explore concrete solutions to these challenges and more importantly, to act immediately. Our joint interventions have been founded on the firm foundation and understanding of the principles in the UN Charter that we the people "have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims". This also includes the principles embodied in the National Development Plan (NDP), which states that "South Africa belongs to all its people and the future of our country is our collective future.

Making it work is our collective responsibility. There are a few milestones that I must recognize and laud.


From the Governance Mechanism aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2025, to the progress in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs for the District Development Model, to the UN's support package to the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal following the floods that took place in April and May.

I am proud to acknowledge that through inter-agency collaboration we brought together valuable constituencies to develop and implement projects and programmes while fostering an environment of accountability, cooperation, and collaboration to support the Government in addressing the needs of South Africans.

As I reflect on these initiatives, it is our collaborative efforts that stand out for me. This is a recognition and reminder that we can find solutions to the complex and unique developmental challenges. In our effort to strive for progress and work towards reaching the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), siloed efforts take us back while collaborative efforts propel us to greater heights, reinforcing the power of partnership, community and connection.

I have seen first-hand the value added of the UN through the work of the joint programmes, Results and Theme Groups. I have no doubt that the incoming Resident Coordinator, Nelson Muffuh, will build on this firm foundation and thrust the UN family towards strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders in the country, not only with our Government partners, but also with civil society, the private sector, academia and the media.

This newsletter highlights some of our engagements in 2022 with a firm view to ramp up our efforts in 2023. It has been my honour to serve the UN development system in South Africa as the Resident Coordinator ad interim for much of 2022. I want to use this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe, peaceful, healthy, and happy holiday season and new year. Let us continue our steadfast work to Leave No One Behind.

**Ayodele Odusola,**  
Acting UN Resident Coordinator 



**Nelson Muffuh**  
The new UN Resident Coordinator, South Africa

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Nelson Muffuh of Cameroon as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Africa, with the host Government's approval. He took up his post on 1 December 2022.

Nelson Muffuh brings more than 20 years of experience in international relations and negotiations, political and development issues at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters, regional and country levels.

Prior to his appointment as United Nations Resident Coordinator, Nelson Muffuh served as Chief of Staff and Principal Strategic Adviser to the UN Deputy Secretary-General since 2017. He led the overall management and guidance of staff, focusing on the acceleration of systemwide and whole-of-society efforts on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and on the repositioning the UN development system and strengthening the Resident Coordinators system.

As lead strategic adviser and policy coordinator on sustainable development political and partnerships interventions, Mr. Muffuh helped shape and advance the UN's comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic, advocate and organize summits on the SDGs, Financing for Development, and Climate Action. He was instrumental in convening and coordinating the efforts of launching the Spotlight Initiative on violence against women and girls, the Decade of

Action for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and the Global Crisis Response Group to address the impacts on food, energy, and finance due to the war in Ukraine.

Prior to this, Mr. Muffuh led and coordinated stakeholder engagement, outreach, and global strategic partnerships efforts to inform the post-2015 development policy process, whose outcome was the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying SDGs to succeed the Millennium Development Goals.

Nelson Muffuh started his UN career with the UN Development Programme-UN Millennium Campaign, then UN Population Fund in Africa, where he acquired extensive experience in programme management, multistakeholder collaborative interventions, partnerships and communications, as well as advocacy and mobilization.

Before that, he served as a Senior Programme and Advocacy Advisor for Christian Aid, and Programme Coordinator for the African Liberal Network-Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Transparency International Secretariat.

Mr. Muffuh studied political science and international relations at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and development cooperation at Sussex University, United Kingdom. He is married and has two children.

# Government and UN sign the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework



The Presidency and the United Nations in South Africa signed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in April at the headquarters of the Government Communication Information System (GCIS) in Pretoria.

The ceremony, led by the Minister in the Presidency, Mondli Gungubele, the then Resident Coordinator for the UN South Africa, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, and the Acting Resident Coordinator, Ayodele Odusola, began with a moment of silence for those affected by the floods in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The UNSDCF is a partnership framework comprehensively detailing the work of the UN in South Africa for the period 2020-2025 following a detailed consultation process that included the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutions, women, and youth.

In her remarks, Ms. Bekele-Thomas spoke of the need for “coherent and critical results-based programming based on national needs and priorities” before noting that “our dream is becoming a reality today.”

Delivering the keynote address, Minister Gungubele emphasized the commitment of Government to implementing the UNSDCF while highlighting this “truly consultative process that is an integration of global, continental and national goals.”

Following the actual signing of the Framework, the UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Mr. Odusola, emphasized South Africa’s unique relationship with the United Nations before reminding those present that “effective implementation of the cooperation framework will depend on a strong accountability mechanism”.

The Acting Resident Coordinator noted that “coherence coordination and collaboration is why it is very important for us to deliver together.”

The General Assembly resolution 72/279 elevates the UNSDCF as “the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” 




Minister Mondli Gungubele and UN Resident Coordinator a.i. Ayodele Odusola, at the signing of UNSDCF

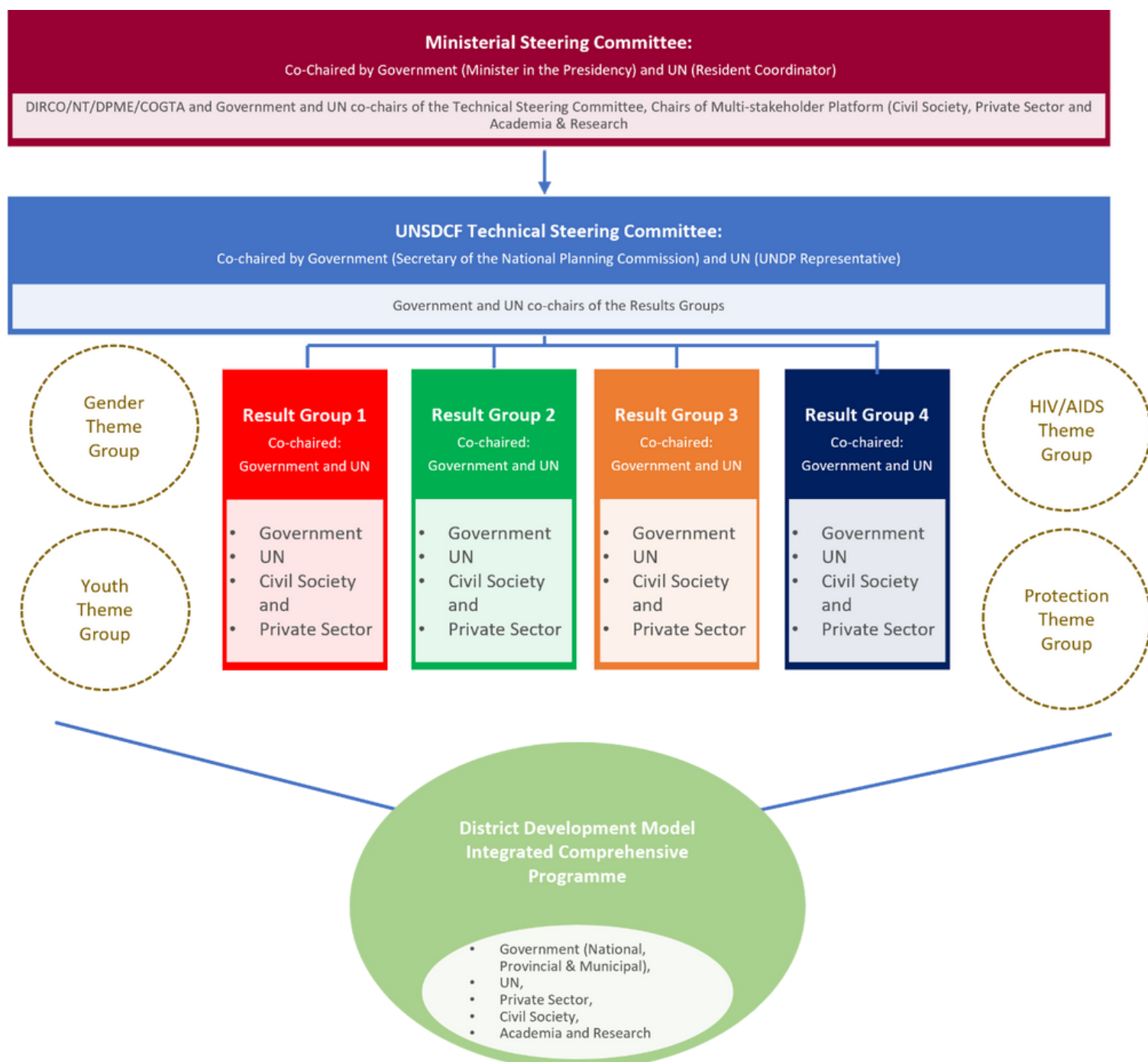
# The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Governance Mechanism



The Governance Model aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), which has been agreed to by the Government and the UN, is a much-lauded achievement for the partnership in South Africa.

No such governance structure has been put in place ever before. The overarching principle for the Governance Model is that it should reinforce the UN reforms at a countrywide level, serving as a mechanism that promotes greater collaboration between the Government, the UN, and other national partners.

Importantly, the governance mechanism encompasses the entire programme cycle, including the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting phases of the Cooperation Framework. It takes into consideration lessons from the previous Cooperation Framework cycle, examples of governance models in other countries and, ultimately, the shifts in the new UNSDCF. 



# UN in South Africa and MISTRA sign MOU on Leaving No One behind



Dr. Yacoob Abba Omar and UN Resident Coordinator a.i. Ayodele Odusola, at the signing ceremony

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that the dignity of the individual is fundamental and that the agenda's goals and targets should be met for all people and for all segments of society, with the aim of reaching first those who are furthest behind.

To advance this principle, the UN in South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA), a think tank on research and reflection on domestic and global dynamics that have an impact on advancing the South African society and humanity.

The purpose of the MOU is to provide a framework for non-exclusive cooperation between the two signatories and also to facilitate and strengthen collaboration. The partnership is expected to further

build support for development opportunities in South Africa.

The collaboration further seeks to advance the UN principle of Leaving No One behind and to explore key initiatives to tackle discrimination, socio-economic challenges and build resilience to vulnerability.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, Ayodele Odusola, the Acting Resident Coordinator of the UN in South Africa, highlighted the importance of promoting inclusive development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. Yacoob Abba Omar, the Director of Operations at MISTRA, emphasized that the two organizations must prioritize those that are furthest left behind. He explained that addressing the increasing levels of poverty and inequality remains a huge challenge and it was important to utilize local and global networks.

Both the UN and MISTRA remain committed towards the implementation of sustainable result-driven initiatives that build humanity and continue supporting government efforts. 



Dr. Yacoob Abba Omar of MISTRA with the UN South Africa Country Team





The Acting Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in South Africa, Ayodele Odusola, in July paid a courtesy visit on the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, at her residence in Pretoria.

The visit followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two parties last year, in support of the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM) in the three pilot districts of O.R. Tambo (Eastern Cape Province), Waterberg (Limpopo) and eThekweni (KwaZulu-Natal).



Minister of COGTA, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma greets UN Resident Coordinator a.i. Ayodele Odusola.


Since the signing of the MOU, the technical teams consisting of both parties have worked together to implement 29 projects of the DDM which fall under the Business Solutions Model, the Thuthuzela Care Centres and the Thusong Service Centres. Through the DDM approach, the UN seeks to assist in building sustainable and resilient communities in South Africa.

In his interaction with the minister, the acting Resident Coordinator shared progress on the ongoing work of the UN in South Africa, the UN's response in the KwaZulu-Natal Province following the devastating floods which caused loss of lives and destruction to infrastructure.

The UN made available R21million (US\$1.24million) from programming budget to support the Government's response efforts in the worst affected communities.

Mr. Odusola also took the opportunity to present a copy of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to the minister, which spells out the work of the UN in South Africa for the period 2020-2025.

**“The UN has an opportunity to support government’s efforts in addressing the structural and developmental challenges facing South Africa,”** said Mr. Odusola.

“We are committed to supporting the government in implementing the National Development Plan through the DDM to ensure that developmental challenges and crises such as last year’s unrest are circumvented,” he added. 



Mr. Odusola presents a copy of the UNSDCF to Minister Dlamini-Zuma



As part of efforts to develop local government districts in South Africa under a “One Plan” approach, the Government and the United Nations recently launched an initiative to raise funds for pilot projects in the three provinces of Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal. The projects, which are in the districts of O.R. Tambo (Eastern Cape), Waterberg (Limpopo) and eThekweni (KwaZulu-Natal), are part of the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) signed by the UN and the Government early this year.



The joint approach is intended to incorporate public, private and civil society participation and investment in an effort to provide support for the development of human capital, improve service delivery and create jobs. The plan also involve visits to the projects sites in Waterberg District that have been identified for restoration such as the Thusong Service Centres, which are one-stop centres for service delivery and the Thuthuzela Care Centres which cater for survivors of gender-based violence.

## 1. HEALTH FIRST



Protecting health services and systems

## 2. PROTECTING PEOPLE



Social protection and basic services

The type of delivery system to be used in supporting the districts is based on three key factors that are crucial to the success of the projects. The first is unlocking economic value chains that focus on providing business development services to small, micro- and medium-enterprises (SMMES) with special emphasis on women- and youth-led businesses. The priority in these areas is the just transition to a low-carbon economy, and working with the labour unions to train the local workforce on skills identified for the green economy.

The second factor is to develop human capital and encourage social transformations that would create sustainable solutions to gender-based violence and femicide and to develop skills relevant to high-performing district sectors.

## 3. ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY



Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers

## 4. MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION







(Continued from Page 7)

The third factor focuses on improving service delivery through good governance at Thusong Centres, formerly known as Multi-Purpose Community Centres. The community centres play a crucial role in improving citizen's access to public services. They also ensure that economic opportunities are accessible and that they meet the basic needs of people often relegated to the margins of society, by acting as conduits between citizens, government and various social partners. The idea is decentralize the operations of these centres so they can provide improved, consistent and efficient service delivery to South Africans across the country.

## 5. ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY



### PROGRESS AND WORK



There has been notable progress by UN in South Africa thus far in implementing some of the signature projects and related value chains. One of projects is within the Food Waste Sub-Sector for Sustainable Jobs and Inclusive Growth, which has been completed in eThekweni, O.R. Tambo and Waterberg districts. The Digital Skills for Decent Jobs for Youth-not-in Employment, Education or Training (YNEET) was completed in O.R. Tambo and Waterberg districts. Also completed are the Drought Intervention Project in O.R. Tambo and Waterberg, and the UN Women value chain facilitation in Waterberg.



On-going projects include the second phase of the Rural Television White Space Network Operator Support Programme, which is providing support to SMMEs to bridge the digital divide. Others are the expansion programme for women in Agriculture, Agri-business and Agro-processing; the Farmer Field School approach; the informal sector and SMMEs Support; the SA Industrial Energy Efficiency Project; the Biogas project; and the project on bridging the gap on linking youth to the Future of Work by closing the digital divide. 🌍





A woman at a shelter in KwaZulu-Natal Province where most women and children sought refuge following the April/May 2022 floods.

The year 2022 will most likely be etched into the memory of many South Africans for mainly two reasons: the return to work and what has been termed the “new normal” in a post Covid-19 pandemic; and the devastation of the floods in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces in April and May that left over 400 people dead and thousands more displaced, affecting the young and old, the rich and poor.

Areas previously regarded as holiday spots known for their pristine beaches and upmarket accommodation such as the Umdloti and Umhlanga areas were not

immune to the damage and destruction caused by torrential rains.

The United Nations in South Africa and partners on the ground in the affected provinces came together to develop a response to the floods that would not only address the immediate needs but also the post-floods challenges many would feel for months to come. In September this year, a UN team of experts once again travelled to the KZN Province to assess the impact of its response on beneficiaries and partners.

The UN handed out of more than 400,000 rands in cash grants mostly to women affected by the flooding who had taken refuge in shelters, many of whom single mothers and very often the sole breadwinners.

Sitting with these women, we heard tales of life before the disaster, many of whom were running their own businesses either selling perfumes and clothes from door-to-door or running take-away food stalls. A common thread among the recollection of their lives before the floods is one of success, happiness and independence – a life of dignity through earned incomes and the ability to look after their families.



A woman weeps as she remembers the devastation and loss she encountered due to the floods.

# KWAZULU-NATAL FLOODS: Claims lives and destroys infrastructure(Continued)




Many of the women we spoke to talked about their young school-going children and the psychological impact the homelessness and destitution had caused. They were grateful that the UN with its partners have been able to provide psycho-social support and continuous access to therapy to assist them to come to terms with their losses. Some of the women said their children ask them to “please hold me when it rains”. Another woman said her child had since developed epilepsy and remains terrified of the storms.

Several mothers talked about how their children have become quiet and withdrawn. A saving grace to many was that in addition to the cash grants and counselling, they were also recipients of dignity kits and food items which alleviated some of the stress of losing their belongings. Many are slowly rebuilding their lives, despite remaining in the shelters, by resuming their businesses, which range from food take-aways to tailoring. Slowly, life is starting to look brighter.

While many of the donated items were an immediate response to the needs of the people affected, the UN was cognizant of the fact that the volatile situation could exacerbate other social ills such as conflict between locals and foreign nationals, domestic violence and gender-based violence as well as the interruption of classes and informal trade. As part of its response, UN is continuing to address these issues through social cohesion programmes and giving the flood victims access to resources and materials on gender-based violence at shelters and other frequented areas.

UN agencies continue to support affected by schools through the provision of building materials and other educational resources. They have also provided support to informal traders in the form of cash grants and business items in partnership with government departments.

The impact of the flooding disaster is still being felt by many both economically and emotionally. However, there remains hope that with resilience and perseverance, people in the affected provinces will continue to build back better. 



Children playing in a shelter in KwaZulu-Natal province for victims of the floods



United Nations donation of dignity packages to those affected by the KZN floods



One of the women residing at the shelter in KwaZulu-Natal following the floods in May 2022

# KWAZULU-NATAL FLOODS: UN Volunteers strengthen capacity in the KZN Province disaster management centres



Following a three-day visit to the flood-ravaged KwaZulu-Natal Province earlier this year, a United Nations technical team identified the need to support strengthening the ability of the provincial and municipal disaster management centres to respond effectively to the National State of Disaster. In response, four UN volunteers were deployed at the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) offices to enhance its capacity in supporting 54 municipalities.

The four volunteers all hail from humble beginnings in rural or informal areas of South Africa. As a result of their work on nature and agriculture while growing up, it was a natural progression for them to study geography and environmental sciences.

While they each possess different set of skills, the volunteers' main responsibility is to add capacity to the Disaster Risk Reduction and Planning Department whose aim is mitigate risks from disasters such as the floods that devastated the province in early 2022. The volunteers work closely with the municipalities and the districts to support disaster management through workshops and awareness campaigns, among others.

Through the workshops, the volunteers aim to dispel some myths on disaster management. As explained by Lulamisan Chauke, one of the volunteers, "There is this concept that disaster management is about giving out blankets and food parcels. While this does form part of the process, it's not the only part. There is the very important planning phase which sets out the response to a disaster, should one occur, and who is responsible for which roles," he says.

"In addition, what can be put in place to reduce the risk of a disaster, such as avoiding building on the flood lines, etc. We also conduct awareness campaigns on fires as well as looking at coordinating resources so each department can lead on certain aspects. We know that disaster management is multi-disciplinary and cross cutting so ideally all



Lulamisan Chauke preparing for a meeting on food planning

the departments and municipalities have to be involved in the planning." The volunteers have since developed a workplan based on the gaps and challenges that they have identified and observed from the time they arrived in July. These gaps include specialist teams overseeing disaster management at some municipalities not working properly while others feel they do not participate enough and therefore lack the necessary experience.

One of the volunteers' responsibilities is to resuscitate advisory forums or task teams to better prepare municipalities for future disasters. Also, some municipalities and districts do not have disaster management plans at all, which is a concern as there is no "guiding tool to respond," while other municipalities have outdated plans.

The volunteers are supporting municipality teams to develop disaster management plans, review and adapt them to ever-changing risks. As the impact of every disaster differs, the plans need to include all risks and factors.

Terrence Mcineka, a volunteer hydrologist, says his primary job is being part of the team that is developing the flood risk management plan for the entire province, which is closely linked to hydrology.

"The province does not have a plan that speaks specifically to flooding disasters. The plan must be a holistic one and informed by local municipalities with their input and involvement as communities in those municipalities are the ones severely impacted when a flood occurs," says Terrence.



According to Silindokuhle Biyela, another volunteer, some of the challenges they face relate to housing materials in certain locations, including rural areas. She says the concern is that some homes are made from mud and thatch roofing and these are more prone to collapse during the rainy season.

“We have noticed that people in urban areas and roads in well-built areas have been affected where we once would not have thought those houses would collapse such as Umhlanga and Umdloti. We can no longer think that disasters are only affecting rural areas as we are seeing it now impacting everyone,” says Silindokuhle.

“Location of housing structures is very important because if the place is a wetland, then with heavy rainfall, that home is going to collapse. We need to now look at locations of houses more closely because disaster is indiscriminate.”

The fourth volunteer, Bahle Mazeka, a human settlement specialist, added that housing and spatial planning is a challenge as there are homes built alongside rivers and other inhabitable areas. “In 2019, these homes collapsed and now we see them being built in the exact same places and then collapsing again due to climate change. We are reviewing with other stakeholders the impact of these floods and what it means for climate change, spatial planning and how land is used,” say Bahle.

The province has seen heavier rainfall before April but because houses are being built on uninhabitable areas, flooding and landslides have increased. This speaks to land-use management and my primary function is to work in that stream.”

The volunteers have been travelling in and around the province conducting assessments and workshops on disaster management to ensure that by the time they complete their tasks, they would have left behind tangible resources with all stakeholders involved.

According to the PDMC, the UN Volunteers have provided them with support and technical expertise on various activities such as the



UN volunteers on a site visit in KwaZulu-Natal Province



UN Volunteers on a site visit.

development and review of the provincial disaster risk profile, technical expertise for the Provincial Post Disaster Evaluation and other related tasks as required.

The UN Volunteers have been instrumental in the PDMC to function, more so as the Chief Directorate had 21 vacant posts, which is a clear indication its human resource capacity challenges. The volunteers have performed over and above the expectations of the PDMC and demonstrated a high level of professionalism and dedication.

Their volunteer programme ends in December 2022. 

# KWAZULU-NATAL FLOODS: Meet the UN Volunteers at the Pietermaritzburg Disaster Management Centre



**Name:** Bahle Mazeka

**Age:** 36 years

**Originally from:** Bizane, Eastern Cape Province

**Qualifications:** Environmental Management – University of KwaZulu-Natal; Geographic Information Systems – Nelson Mandela University & Master's degree in Urban Development

**Name:** Lulamisani Chauke

**Age:** 28 years

**Originally from:** Soshanguve, Pretoria, Gauteng Province

**Qualifications:** Geography and Environmental Studies – North West University; Honours in Disaster Management and Risk Assessment – North West University



**Name:** Terrence Mcineka

**Age:** 30 years old

**Originally from:** Kwamaphumulo, KwaZulu-Natal Province

**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Science in Geography and Hydrology; Master's degree in Hydrobiology

**Name:** Silindokuhle Biyela

**Age:** 35 years

**Originally from:** Mandeni, KwaZulu-Natal Province

**Qualifications:** Public Administration – University of KwaZulu-Natal; Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management – University of Free State





## ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

“This food garden is all about organic produce,” says 24-year-old Nonjabula Tabete of Bisho Park in KwaZulu-Natal Province. A mother of three, Nonjabulo describes life in Bisho as “challenging”, noting that during her younger days, the area was suitable enough in which to grow up. But she now wants a better life for her son as corruption and criminal activities have increased in recent years.

One of the crimes regularly committed is gun robbery. “We are grateful to be alive every morning, that’s how bad it is,” she says, adding that lately the community has seen more police presence during the day and she hopes things will begin to change.



**"The food garden was affected by the floods as some of the produce was washed away and the fencing was also damaged and we had to start again" Nonjabulo Tabete, farmer**

She commended the UN through one of their partners, the International Red Cross Society, for assisting them with seeds, tools and fencing for the food garden so they could continue the community project.

The project is mainly run by women within the 24-27 years age group. The elder ladies have “tons of insight when it comes to food and agriculture,” she explains. Previously a dump site, the ladies cleaned up the area and currently grow spinach, potatoes, lettuce, tomatoes, carrots, mustard, chillies and some strawberries and herbs such as parsley and mint.

The women aim to not only feed themselves from the garden but also the homeless and the hungry. They recently acquired additional land from the local council to expand the food garden. Their dream is to sell their fresh produce to leading supermarket chains such as Woolworths and Checkers. 🌈



24-year-old Nonjabula (2nd from the left) sits with her farming colleagues

Speaking about the floods, Nonjabulo, a qualified teacher, says that the floods did cause damage to the area and the food garden that she runs with seven other ladies from the community, but they heard that other areas experienced it worse.

“The food garden was affected by the floods as some of the produce was washed away and the fencing was also damaged and we had to start again,” she says.



Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed

"The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed, recently delivered the 12th Annual Desmond Tutu International Peace Lecture in Cape Town, saying the celebration of Tutu's legacy has "never been more relevant in our world of great pain".

The purpose and heart of the Peace Lecture, whose theme was "A Vision for Hope and Healing", is rooted in the Desmond and Leah Legacy Foundation's work to transform collective consciousness through the courageous pursuit of healing, inspired by the legacy that Archbishop Tutu left in the world.

This was the first lecture since the death of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu in December last year at the age of 90. The lecture was also held on the day that coincided with Archbishop's birthday, 7 October, and Ms. Tutu's birth month.



Former Executive Director of UN Women, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

In her speech, Ms. Mohammed noted that "in the last few years, we all witnessed the devastating impact of a global pandemic, climate change and conflict which has helped to bring us together," adding that Archbishop Tutu was a true believer in the power of multilateralism. He was also a distinguished member of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Genocide Prevention, took part in a High-Level Fact-Finding Mission to Gaza and more broadly, was engaged in many other global issues such as promoting joint solutions through listening and dialogue. "He knew that no matter the size of the country, no one could do it alone," she said.

**"His work has also supported major economic and social progress which has been a cornerstone of international peace, from promoting prevention and resolution of conflict to providing humanitarian relief, and saving millions of lives." Amina Mohammed**

On his legacy, the Deputy Secretary-General noted that the Archbishop "also understood that peace, in its broader conception, can only be achieved if we approach humanity as a community in which in any African village everyone takes care of each other. His notion of peace is not only the absence of violence or conflict, but the pursuit of common values."

"This concept is reflected in African thinking and policies today that need to be implemented. Likewise, the Secretary-General's proposal for a New Agenda for Peace are a key element of the Common Agenda, that is addressing new and emerging threats, while ensuring that human, political, civil, social, economic and cultural rights are leveraged as a main tool for conflict prevention in the pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals," she said.



Musician Vicky Sampson performing "My African Dream"





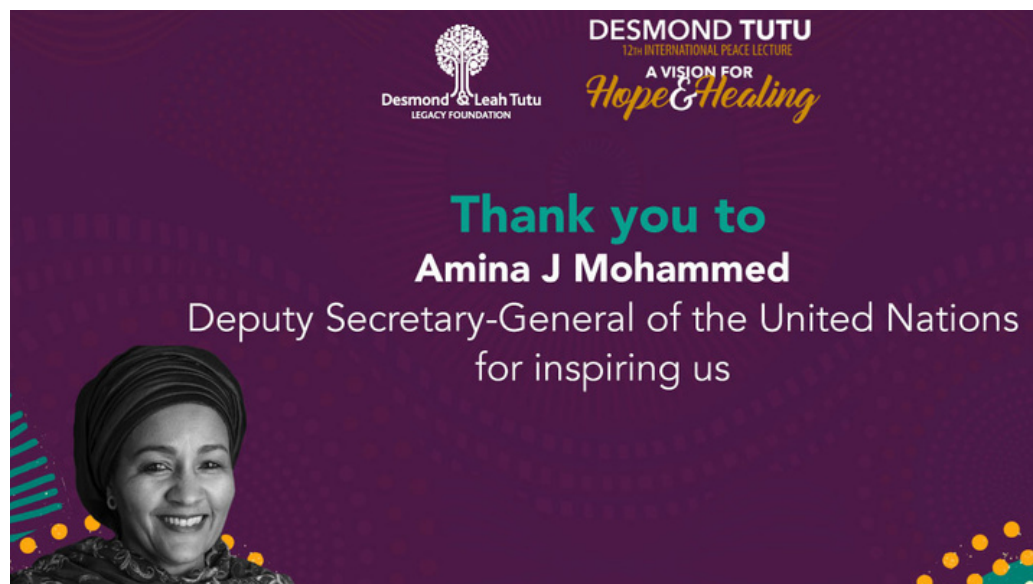
“Let us honour the ‘Arch’ on his birthday by living and acting on the inspiration he gave us for the hope that we may find deep within us, the will to be part of healing the torn fabric of our societies in a world of crisis, and yet with so much hope for the future.”

Turning to the UN and its role in multilateralism, the Deputy Secretary-General told the audience that the Organization remains for me "the only forum in the world where parties come together to transform common threats into shared solutions. We try to face the reality of the day with the aspirations of humankind, and each day, we try to close the gap. Some days are good days, and some days, not so good.”

Noting that current global challenges were undermining trust in multilateralism at a time when we actually need it most, Ms. Mohammed called for “a reformed and a strengthened multilateral system with the transformation for being more fit for purpose of the United Nations at the core.”

**“A multilateral system that serves those who are furthest behind, not just those who were first in line 75 years ago. A multilateral system that responds to the needs and challenges of today, looking into tomorrow. A multilateral system that looks for common ground even in the areas where there is currently none in sight. A multilateral system that has a renewed capacity to create hope and healing.”**

Explaining what a strengthened multilateral system would mean for Africa and how the continent could get where its people need to be, Ms. Mohammed said, “I believe that we have to start recognizing first that we are not beginning from nothing, we are not beginning from scratch; we must change the narrative, we are not hopeless nor are we helpless, our potentials are enormous.”



“We are 54 sovereign nations on varying paths of democracy. We have 1.4 billion people, 2,5 trillion-dollar market opportunities, and the fasted growing FinTech - connecting people, especially our women, to financial services. We have the institutions, the United Nations, the African Union, the African Development Bank, Afrexim Bank and we have over 25 stock exchanges, with the largest being in Johannesburg. We have the necessary instruments – there is the 2030 Agenda (the SDGs), there is [Agenda] 2063 and there is the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA),”she said.

She added, “So with the potential, with the institutions, and with the instruments, that, I believe, in itself is hope.” “We need to begin at the local level, supporting communities, especially women and youth. That means the devolution of resources to build resilience and strong foundations for the Africa house.”

The other speaker at the lecture was best-selling author Doug Abrams.





The Department of Basic Education and five United Nations agencies in South Africa successfully launched the Education Plus Initiative in Pretoria earlier this year. The Initiative is a high-level drive to expand access to secondary education for young people and to advance adolescent girls' and young women's health, education and rights in sub-Saharan Africa.

The purpose of the initiative is to secure commitments and investments so that young people can enroll and complete secondary school to improve their knowledge, social skills, health and potential earnings.



As a rights-based and gender-responsive action agenda, the initiative also aims to ensure that adolescent girls and young women have equal opportunities to access quality secondary education, alongside key education and health services and support for their economic autonomy and empowerment.

The UN agencies involved in the launch are the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNAIDS and UN Women.

This Africa-wide joint advocacy initiative identifies five benefits to which every adolescent girl and young woman should be entitled. These include completion of quality secondary education; universal access to comprehensive sexuality education; fulfilment of sexual and reproductive health; and rights including HIV prevention, freedom from gender-based and sexual violence; and successful school-to-work transitions and young women's economic security and empowerment.



Regina Mhaule, Deputy Minister, Department of Basic Education,

The initiative will build on six pillars of high-level advocacy, strategic partnerships, ensuring young women's leadership, think tanks with researchers and experts, multi-media outreach, and a data hub for advocacy and communication to support decision-makers.

In her remarks at the launch, Regina Mhaule, the South Africa's Deputy Minister of Education, called upon all stakeholders to join the ambitious initiative and make it a reality. "On behalf of the Department of Basic Education, I wish to accept the support we are receiving from the UN agencies and further declare our commitment to collaborate and cooperate with you for the greater benefit of the child," she said.

The drive to keep girls in secondary education comes in response to many challenges that disproportionately affect young girls in sub-Saharan Africa. These include alarming numbers of adolescent and young girls affected by HIV/AIDS, unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence and femicide, all of which impact negatively on their further education, well-being, human rights and survival.



“ One in three girls that fall pregnant in the country will not return to school. ”

Department of Basic Education, South Africa



Department of Basic Education officials and representatives from UNAIDS, UNFPA UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women at the Education Plus Initiative launch

The girl child of South Africa is an extremely challenged human being at home, in the community and religiously through social norms that put them at the bottom of the value chain,” said Thembisile Xulu, the Chief Executive Officer of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC). Ms. Xulu welcomed the initiative and pledged her organization’s full support and commitment.

“At school, especially in the early grades, is where we have the opportunity to truly shape the mind of a young girl.” In the spirit of never leaving behind young people in conversations about them, learners from local secondary schools, young people’s organizations, including UNFPA’s Youth Advisory Panel members, and other youth networks, attended the launch. The young people also actively

participated as respondents following the Deputy Minister’s keynote address. Speaking on behalf of the head of the UN in South Africa, UNICEF Representative Christine Muhigana noted that “the UN system wants all children and young people in South Africa to have equitable access to quality education relevant to a changing society.”

“Today we rally political leadership, development partners and communities to fulfil every adolescent girl’s rights to education and health by enabling all girls to complete quality secondary education in violence-free environments.” Ms. Muhigana called for “universal access to sexual and reproductive health services that are non-judgmental, stigma-free for adolescent girls and young women in all their diversity, including those living with HIV.” 🌍



# Building partnerships building and engagement in 2022



The 2030 Agenda calls for a new collaborative way of working. In recognition of the urgency of the 2030 Agenda and the need to accelerate sustainable solutions to country's developmental challenges, the UN system cast its net wide in its engagements with partners. The advent of COVID-19 pandemic reversed many development gains across the world and plunged millions more into extreme poverty and chronic hunger. South Africa was not spared. The pandemic forced companies to re-direct some of their Corporate Social Investment (CSI) budgets to adapt to the challenges the pandemic brought to their operations. Some of our partners were severely impacted by the unrest in KwaZulu-Natal in 2021 and the floods in 2022.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The work to collaborate with Anglo American South Africa on SDG work began at Anglo American's debut SDG Accountability Dialogue in 2018. It saw the beginning of discussions between the entity and the UN in the country. In 2021 a Declaration of Intent with Anglo American South Africa was signed to explore areas of collaboration in the Waterberg District Municipality. Thus far, the engagements have focused on supporting UN through the District Development Model (DDM) and the three signature projects, namely, Thusong Service Centres, Thuthuzela Care Centres and Business Solution Centres. Waterberg District is also home to Anglo Operations. In addition, another area of partnership is to establish a Regional SDG Accountability Forum in the Waterberg District Municipality in 2022. 



MISTRA is an independent think tank that takes a long-term view on the strategic challenges facing South Africa, the continent, and the globe. Since its inception in 2010, MISTRA has taken a leading position in long-term, strategic, and transdisciplinary research by generating research and creating platforms for engagement. MISTRA's research, policy debates, convening power and scenario planning expertise have assisted in finding lasting and effective solutions to the challenges South Africa faces. The UN relationship with MISTRA began in 2019 with the development of the Common Country Analysis (CCA). An MoU was signed on 12 October 2022 and the partnership is expected to develop new knowledge products, mutually benefit from existing research generated by both organizations, collaborate on hosting social dialogue events and explore potential partnership for new socio-economic scenarios. 



## UNITED NATIONS SOUTH AFRICA

### CONTACT US:

UN House, Metropark Building,  
351 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria,  
South Africa

Telephone: +27 12 354 8507

Email: [unic-pretoria@un.org](mailto:unic-pretoria@un.org)

Facebook: @UNinSouthAfrica

Instagram: @UNinSouthAfrica

Twitter: @UNinSouthAfrica

Website: <https://southafrica.un.org/>

